

Hot Springs Ecology and Tourism Development Experts

Mozambique

OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) is seeking two hot springs experts – one in the ecology of hot springs and the second in the development of hot springs-based tourism -- to provide technical assistance in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to other countries on subjects of Departmental expertise, on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating in seventeen countries with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Over the last decade, Mozambique has experienced significant economic growth, and yet, despite these improvements Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy of Mozambique remains highly dependant upon donor funds, a weak agricultural sector, and a structurally problematic manufacturing and trade sector. The rich cultural and natural resources of Mozambique make the development of a major tourism industry the best option for sustainable economic growth. The Government of Mozambique is supportive of such endeavors in the hopes that the development of tourism as a major industry may help create jobs and alleviate poverty while reducing pressure on the environment and protected areas. However, the infrastructure needed for a strong tourism industry is lacking. Furthermore, major cultural, historic and natural sites with potential of becoming tourist destinations are now endangered. A major intervention is needed to not only conserve and preserve these sites, but also to develop their tourism potential.

Gorongosa National Park is approximately 3,770 square kilometers in area and is situated in the lower Pungue River catchment area in the floor of the Great East African Rift Valley in the Sofala Province of Mozambique. Gorongosa National Park, considered a biodiversity hotspot in southern Africa, was significantly impacted during Mozambique's 30 year civil war. The Carr Foundation has recently initiated focused management activities in the Park, including promoting community based tourism and critical species restoration. Due to its proximity to the coast (approx. 100km) and the presence of scattered inselbergs, the region is of varied habitats including afro-mountain forest, highland and lowland miombo woodland, mopane woodland, extensive palm/grasslands, thickets, swamps and lakeshore. Nhambita, next to the western border of the Park, has

natural hot springs. DOI-ITAP is being asked to investigate the feasibility of developing the sites for tourism.

ASSIGNMENT: DOI-ITAP is assembling a team of two hot springs experts – one focusing on hot springs ecology and one focused on hot springs tourism development -- to provide technical assistance in Mozambique in September/October 2006. Applications are welcome from candidates with expertise in both the ecology of hot springs and the development of hot springs tourism.

SCHEDULE: This assignment will be for approximately two weeks in September/October 2006. The technical assistance will be provided in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background material will be provided to the selected individuals prior to departure. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager, team colleagues, in-country counterparts, Carr Foundation representatives and U.S. Agency for International Development representatives both before and after travel to the region. Selected individuals will communicate both over the phone and through e-mail on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, each team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft report of the trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future related training and technical assistance.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, etc.). The salaries of the team members, however, must be paid by their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligations.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Must be a current or retired employee of DOI;
- Must have demonstrated experience in the ecology of hot springs, or their development for tourism.
- Must be willing to live and work in remote locations with “rustic” conditions during this assignment; and
- Must have demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups.

Highly desirable qualifications include:

- Previous international experience, particularly experience with protected area systems in other countries (please indicate if you have been to Mozambique and in what capacity);
- Previous experience with indigenous cultures; and
- Portuguese language proficiency.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness for duty.

Candidates that reach the interview stage of the selection process must obtain supervisory approval for their participation in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment should send a resume and/or letter of interest detailing relevant work experience. A form SF 171 is acceptable. Please ensure that you include with your application materials the following administrative information; home and work address, phone/fax numbers, supervisor name and contact details (phone number and e-mail), whether you have a valid personal and/or official passport, date of birth, and grade/step. Please refer to the DOI-ITAP website, <http://www.doi.gov/intl/itap/> for additional information about our program, other short-term opportunity announcements, and our travel guidelines.

Submit applications (electronically is preferred) to:

Barbara Pitkin
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS 3530, Room 3547
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-5221
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov

Applications will be reviewed as received on a rolling-basis. Positions will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is selected. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible and all applications should be submitted no later than COB, July 28, 2006.

All NPS applicants should copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro in the NPS Office of International Affairs: email rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov or fax 202-371-1446.

Any questions regarding the details of these assignments can be directed to Barbara Pitkin (contact information above).

Selection Process

A short list of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take a few months. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process, notification may be by telephone, email or letter.

This announcement has been developed in collaboration with NPS/OIA. The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements.

